

We have all witnessed this disturbing trend of shortages in nursing, radiology, mental health professions, and many other health professionals for quite some time. While the ultimate solution to this problem lies in a variety of actions, telehealth has proven a solution to this mounting crisis. I have long supported efforts in technology to improve the efficiency and quality of health care, and make it easier for folks in rural areas to get the health services they need. Telehealth is one answer to the access and affordability problems facing health care today, and I hope my bill will increase the ease with which folks obtain their critical health services.

Telehealth applications have a record of cutting costs, increasing choice and reducing medical errors in facilities and communities across the country. Telehealth also provides services to elderly who may not otherwise be able to get to a health care facility for care. This is growing increasingly important in rural America—especially in my State of Montana. Montana's demographics have been changing over the past few years, and our health care providers continue to see more and more patients over the age of 65. We now have more elderly people per capita than most States in the union, and by 2025, Montana is predicted to rank third in the Nation in the number of people over the age of 65.

We must charge forward to modernize and improve healthcare through the application of information technology. Healthcare expenditures in 2003 totaled \$1.7 trillion—a number that is growing faster than the overall economy. Increased adoption of health information technology has the potential to save this country billions of dollars and thousands of lives. I want to do what I can to bring more money to the State of Montana for telehealth services and expand the availability of these services to more patients in more areas than ever before. I will continue my efforts, both through bringing money to Montana to make this happen and by passing meaningful, common-sense legislation to get rid of the over-burdensome red-tape that often gets in the way of good care.

I think it is essential to bring quality health care to all comers of Montana and other rural States. It is high time we bring back the dynamic days of these frontier areas by creating and maintaining vibrant and thriving communities, which have so much to offer their residents, including one of the most important basic needs—health care.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2194. Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DAYTON,

Mr. REID, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2195. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2196. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2197. Mr. SPECTER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3010, supra.

SA 2198. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2199. Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2200. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2201. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2202. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2203. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2204. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2205. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2206. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2207. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2208. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2209. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2210. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2194. Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. REID, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SAR-

BANES, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title II, in the matter under the heading "LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE", in the matter under the heading "ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES", after the first sentence insert the following:

In addition to amounts appropriated under the preceding sentence, for making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), \$2,920,000,000, which amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

SA 2195. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____.(a) Section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1427), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) The continuous residency requirement under subsection (a) may be reduced to 3 years for an applicant for naturalization if—

"(1) the applicant is the beneficiary of an approved petition for classification under section 204(a)(1)(E);

"(2) the applicant has been approved for adjustment of status under section 245(a); and

"(3) such reduction is necessary for the applicant to represent the United States at an international event.

"(h)(1) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall adjudicate an application for naturalization under this section not later than 30 days after the submission of such application if the applicant—

"(A) requests such expedited adjudication in order to represent the United States at an international event; and

"(B) demonstrates that such expedited adjudication is related to such representation.

"(2) An applicant is ineligible for expedited adjudication under paragraph (1) if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such expedited adjudication poses a risk to national security. Such a determination by the Secretary shall not be subject to review."

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, \$100,000 for fiscal year 2006, to review applications for naturalization submitted by applicants who are eligible for the reduced residency requirement or expedited adjudication under subsections (g) and (h) of 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a).

(c) The amendment made by subsection (a) is repealed on October 1, 2006.

SA 2196. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by